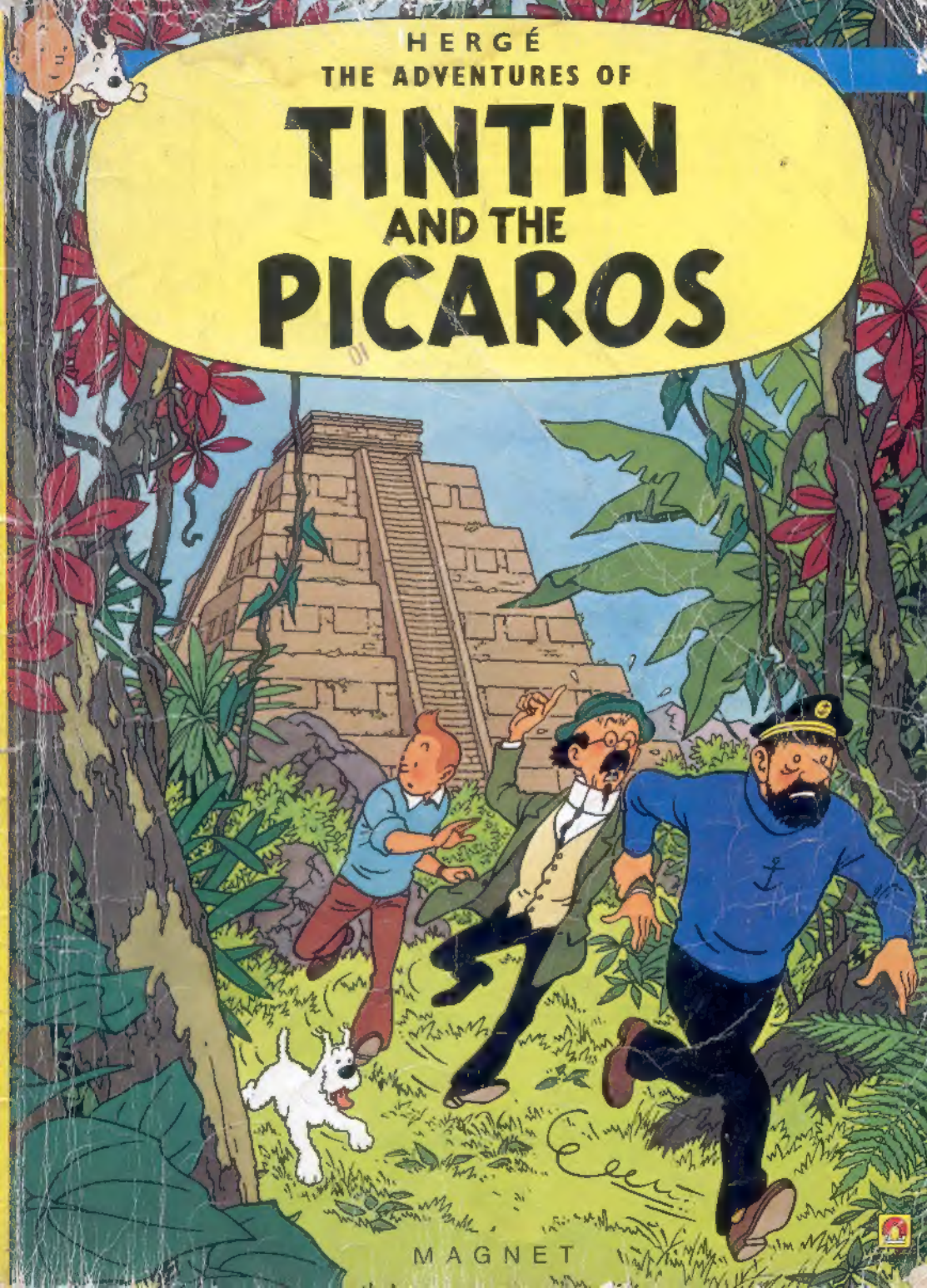


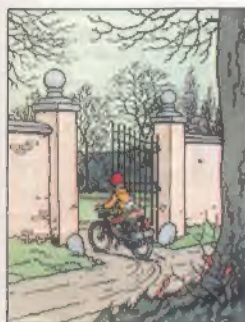
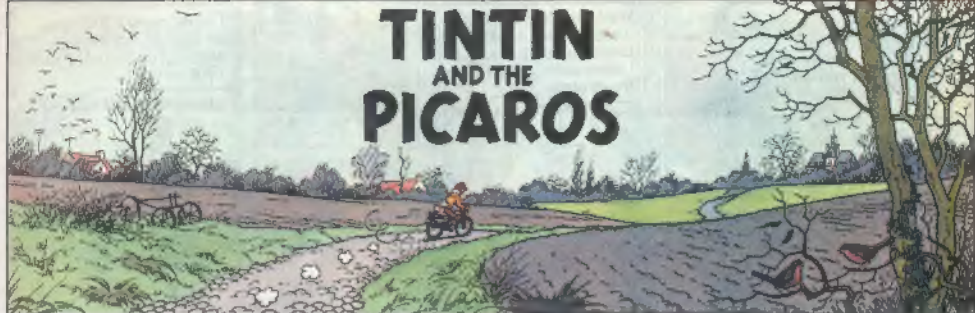
HERGÉ
THE ADVENTURES OF

TINTIN AND THE PICAROS



MAGNET

TINTIN AND THE PICAROS



Ah! there you are... Come on in. I want you to read something. Look what I found in the latest "Paris-Flash" ...

"Opera star Bianca Castafiore continues her brilliant progress through South America. After triumphs in Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela, she visits San Theodoros, where she will be received by General Tapioca."



General Tapioca... Didn't he topple our old friend Alcazar?

Yes, with the help of the Kûrvi-Tasch regime in Borduria. They say Tapioca's a real tyrant... he's cruel and he's vain...

... In fact he's so vain he changed the name of the capital from Los Dopicos. He called it Tapiopolis after himself. As for poor old Alcazar, he's gone underground with a band of partisans.

Oh, yes: the famous Picaros.



That's right, the Picaros. It's the name adopted by the guerrillas who've sworn to get rid of Tapioca and his mob. They're said to be backed by another great power... commercial and financial this time: the International Banana Company... A rare old mix-up, as you see!

Blistering barnacles, Tintin! What a lecture! ... All that talking makes me thirsty... Here, have a whisky ...

No, thanks. Not for me... You know that.



Oh well... Cheers!



PFOUAGH!





Billions of blue blistering barnacles!... Some anamorphic aardvark switched my whisky for this... this cleaning fluid!

Cleaning Fluid?!?



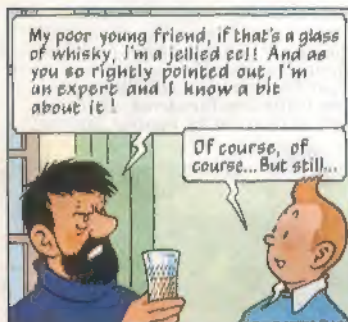
Well, bottled bilge-water, then... it all tastes much the same, I dare say... Here! Try some!

I...



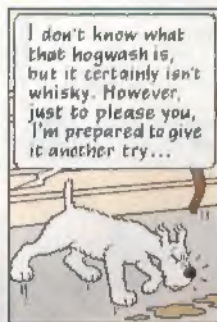
I'm no expert like you, of course, but it does seem to me to taste just like whisky...

Like whisky?!

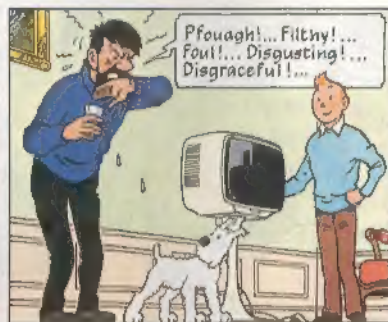


My poor young friend, if that's a glass of whisky, I'm a jelled eel! And as you so rightly pointed out, I'm an expert and I know a bit about it!

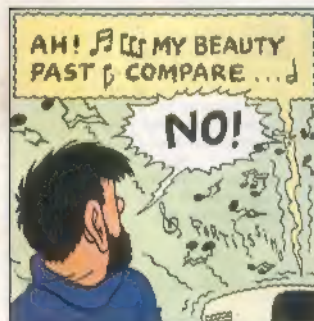
Of course, of course... But still...



I don't know what that hogwash is, but it certainly isn't whisky. However, just to please you, I'm prepared to give it another try...



Pfouagh!... Filthy!... Foul!... Disgusting!... Disgraceful!...



AH! MY BEAUTY PAST COMPARE...

NO!

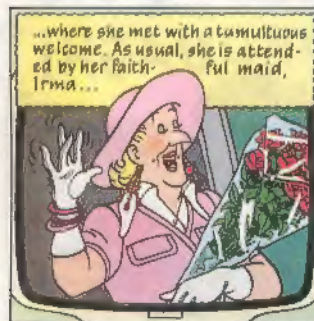


...THESE JEWELS BRIGHT I WEAR!
...Everyone knows the golden voice of the famous Bianca Castafiore...

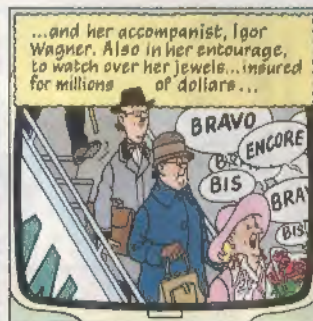
Oh yes! We know it all right!



...who continues her triumphant tour through Latin America. Today she arrived in Tapicopolis, capital of San Theodoros...



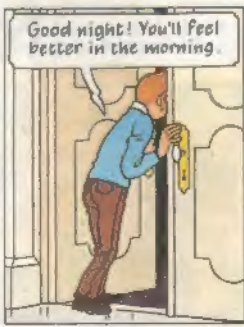
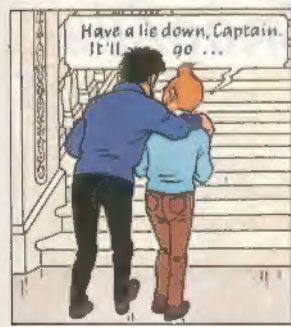
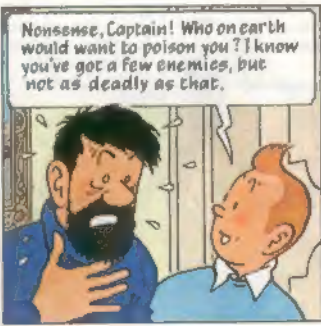
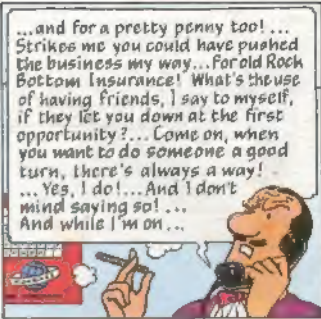
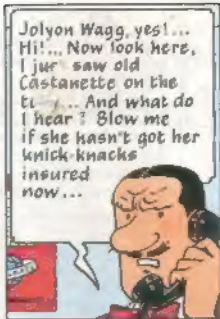
...where she met with a tumultuous welcome. As usual, she is attended by her faithful maid, Irma...



...and her accompanist, Igor Wagner. Also in her entourage, to watch over her jewels... insured for millions of dollars...



...are two certified detectives, always on the alert, always following discreetly in her footsteps.





Snowy, you're hopeless! You've drunk all that spilt whisky!

Show what? ... Wassa matter? Wassa matter with a drop of whisky?

H/C



Still, it certainly proves the whisky isn't poisoned.

Come on, off to bed, you old dipso! Sleep off the booze!

H/C

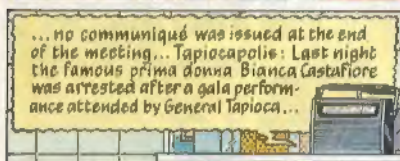


Next morning ...

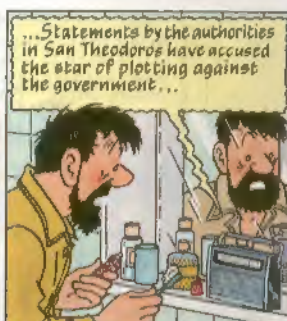
I look horrible this morning ... Must have been that wretched whisky I had yesterday.



Oh well, too bad, can't be helped! ... It's time for the news...



... no communiqué was issued at the end of the meeting ... Tapiocapoli: Last night the famous prima donna Bianca Castafiore was arrested after a gala performance attended by General Tapioca...



... Statements by the authorities in San Theodoros have accused the star of plotting against the government...

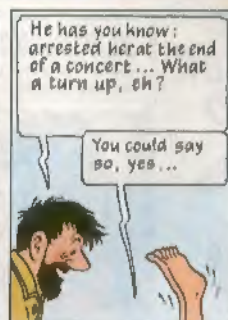


Tintin! ... Tintin! ... Something marvellous just happened to General Tapioca!



He's arrested Castafiore, silly fellow! He doesn't know what he's let himself in for!

Arrested Castafiore? ... No! ...



He has you know: arrested her at the end of a concert ... What a turn up, eh?

You could say so, yes ...



Tintack! ... Capock Hatpin! ... Terrible news! ... Dreadful!



Read this! In the "Daily Reporter" Bianca Castafiore has been arrested!

Do they give any details?



That poor child! ... In prison! ... Just imagine! ... I'm absolutely shattered!



GROOAHH!

Listen to this, Tintin: it's positively hilarious!

Go ahead, I'm all ears.

each have been...
ference when the min...
wards. Some agreement...
no statement was issued.

STAR IN TERRORIST PLOT BIANCA CASTAFIORE ARRESTED

TAPIOCAPOLIS, T...
International oper...
Bianca Castafiore was a...
tonight by the S...
Theodoros pol...
is accused of the s...
against the st...
Members of...
encourage...
taken into...
city f...

"... A search of her luggage revealed documents which prove conclusively the existence of a plot aimed at the removal of General Tapioca and the overthrow of his regime ...

... The San Theodorian government have let it be known that the plot is centred in a West European country, where the singer was staying before her departure for South America.

It's just like a cheap thriller!

Castafiore in a conspiracy!
A conspiracy of silence, let's hope!!

DONG

Excuse me, sir, but there are two reporters downstairs... asking if you will see them.

Already?!

All right. Just let me put on a dressing-gown and I'll come.

Why, it's Christopher Willoughby-Drue and Marco Rizzotto of "Paris-Flash".
What can I do for you, gentlemen?

Good-morning, Captain. Forgive us for calling so early, but we wanted to be the first to ask what you think of this Castafiore business.

What do I think? ...
Perfectly simple!...

I think it's a load of old rubbish! Blistering barnacles! Accusing Castafiore of conspiracy! ...
Ridiculous!

Yes, but what about the accusations made against yourself?

Accusations against ME???

Ah, so you don't know about that yet? Here, look... in today's "Trumpeter" ...

?

Impossible!... Those San Theodolites must be off their tripods!



Oh, it's you. Here, read this. It concerns you, too.



courageous action which will bring widespread benefits.

CASTAFIORE CONSPIRACY TAPIOCA GOVERNMENT MAKES NEW CHARGES

Tapioapolis: The Castafiore conspiracy was masterminded from Marlinspike in Western Europe, claimed a government spokesman today. He accused supporters of General Alcazar, and named as principal figures in the plot: Captain Haddock, Tintin the reporter, and Professor Calculus. All three are long-standing friends of General Alcazar. It is known that Signora Bianca Castafiore was recently a guest at Marlinspike Hall, country home of Captain

What is all this? They must be crazy!



I'll say we do! The whole story is bilge! Bilge from stem to stern!



DONG



'Morning squire!

"Daily Reporter"! Hi!

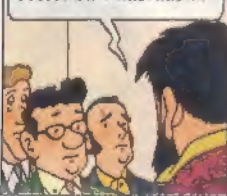


A few words for "Radio-Round", Captain...

... and for "Radio Rave-Up"...



Gentlemen, these accusations are as grotesque as they are false! Us? Conspirators? ... Blue blistering bell-bottomed balderdash!



Seriously... Here comes Professor Calculus. Look at him, then tell me whether you think he's capable of taking part in a conspiracy!



Perfectly, my dear sire! And proud of it!



Perfectly!... And I weigh my words. It's a shame, I tell you! A scandal! ...Imprisoning a poor, weak woman like that! We must take her case at once to the International Court of Justice!



You deny the allegations, Captain. All the same, General Alcazar is one of your friends, isn't he?

One of my friends?... I've met him two or three times, that's all.



If you say so. But I take it you won't deny that Signora Castafiore has been a guest here, at your invitation?...

Invitation? You mean invasion! But from that to conspiracy...



Still, let's not discuss it any more. I tell you, the accusations are insane... Now, gentlemen, let me offer you some whisky...



Let's drink to the release of the Milanese Nightingale, and...



... your good health!



Stop! Don't touch it!... There must be some mistake. This whisky is quite undrinkable!

Undrinkable? On the contrary, it's excellent!

Velvet!

Mmm...



You mustn't drink it, I tell you! It tastes like poison!

Of course, of course: a poison that kills slowly! It's a known fact! Ha! ha! ha!

And that's no problem: as it happens, we aren't in a hurry! Ha! ha! ha!



I'm the only one who finds the whisky revolting. Why? There's something fishy going on...



Unless... That's an idea... Maybe it's a new brand Nestor bought.



I must ask him...

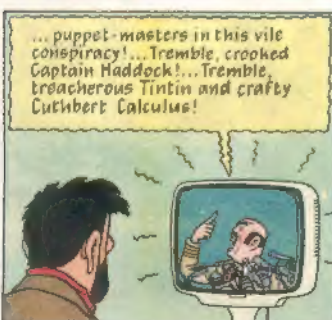
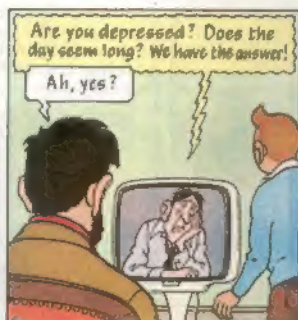


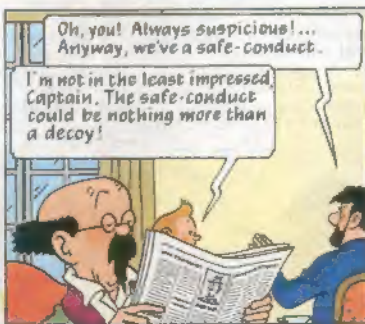
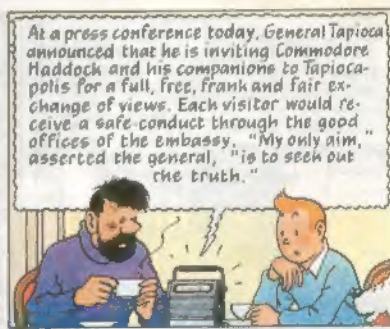
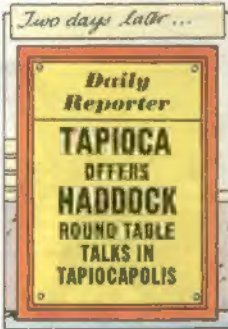
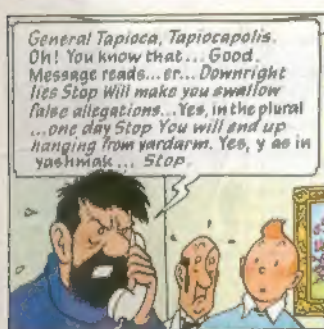
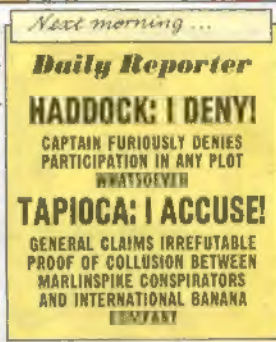
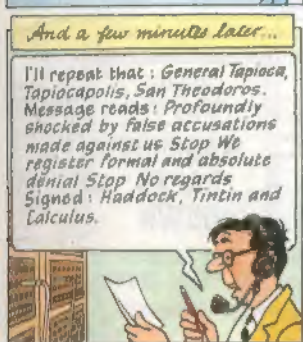
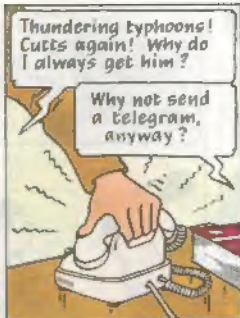
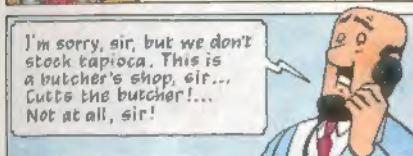
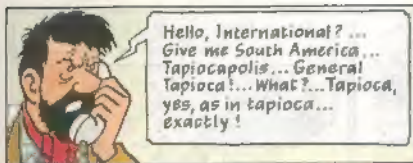
I can't understand the master: I find this "Loch Lomond" superb, as always.

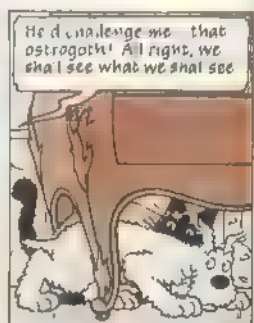
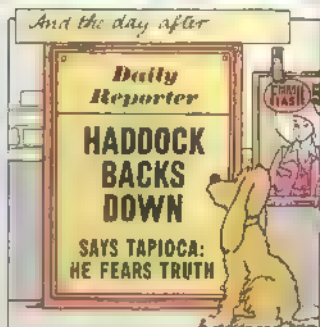
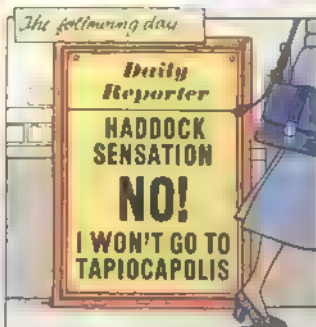
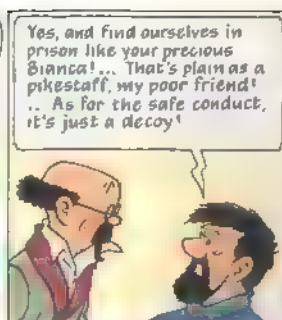


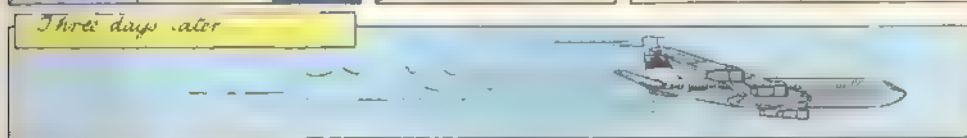
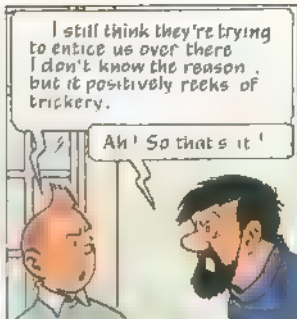
I say, Nestor...

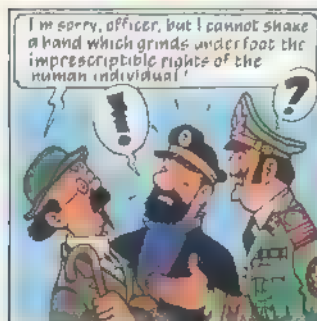
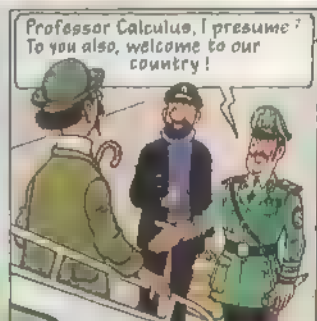
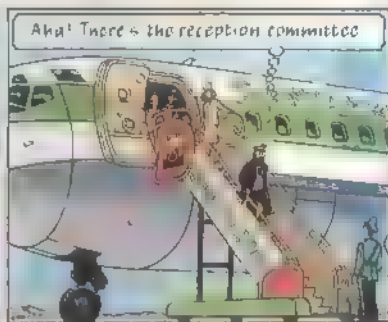
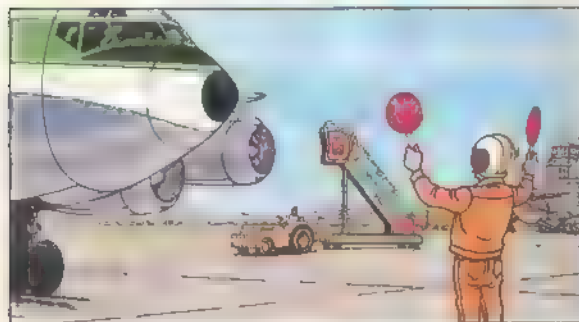
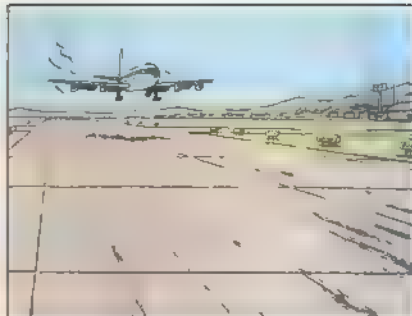
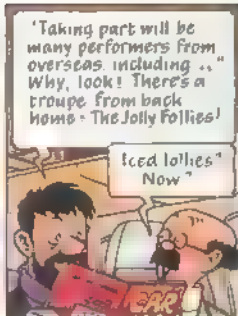


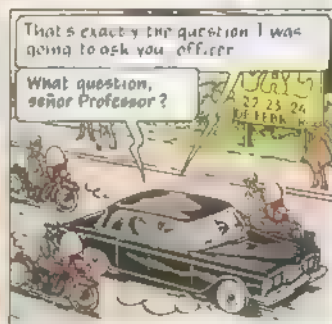
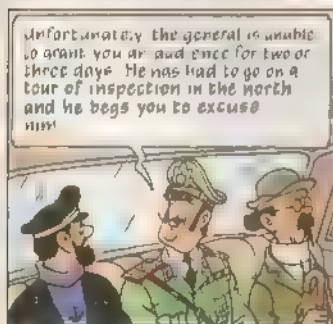
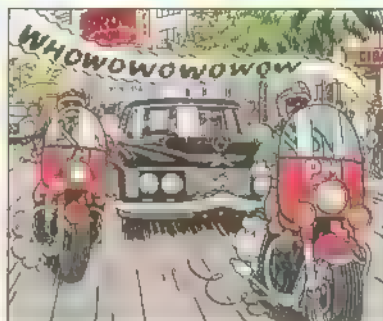




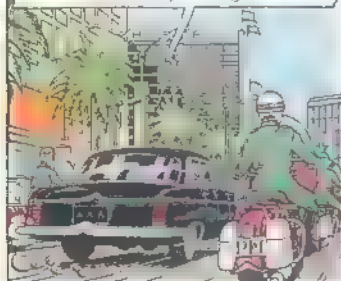








Ah! Our hotel, I imagine?

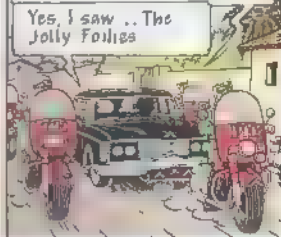


No, señor Commodore. We thought you would prefer the peace of the countryside to the hubbub of the city. Besides, the carnival will be starting shortly... Then there'll be incessant noise round here, all day and all night. You wouldn't get a wink of sleep.



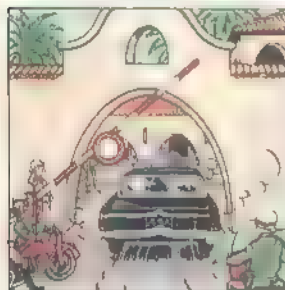
Did you know, a party of your compatriots are joining the festivities this year?

Yes, I saw... The Jolly Follies



Half an hour later

Here we are



You've got us well guarded



Just a simple precaution. Ah yes, the swimming pool is over the other side.

And Tintin was suspicious!



These are your apartments, señor Commodore: I hope they will please you.

I'm sure



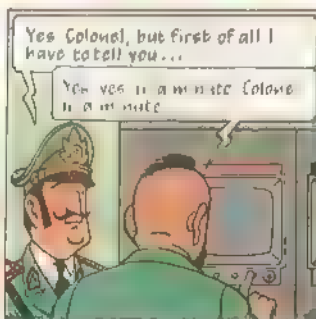
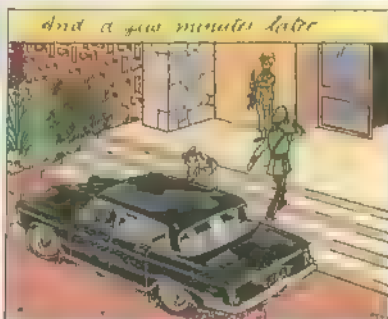
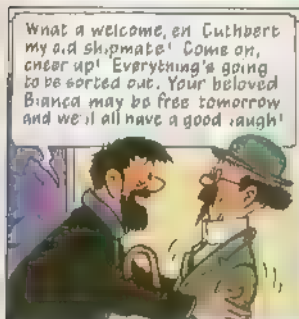
Of course, a servant will be at your disposal throughout your stay with us...

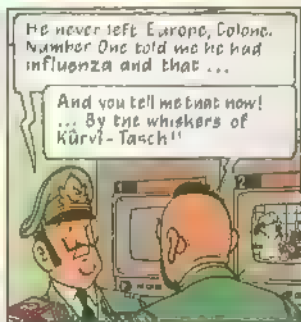
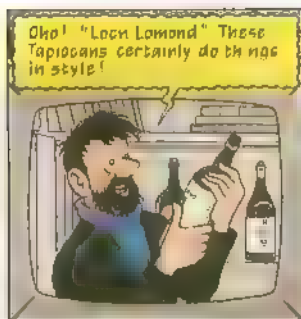
Too kind, Colonel!



Ah, here he is now!







Good, I'll think about it. Meanwhile, you'll have to stall the others. Tell them everybody's got influenza... that the Casta-Fiore's lost her voice. Tell them anything you like... to gain time.

Very good
Go on!

Meanwhile

What a beautiful evening! It must be lovely outside.

Hello, what's this?
Rusted up?

Come open... you stupid stubborn!

CRACK

Billions of billions blue blistering barnacles! Why does everything happen to me?

¿Que pasa?

¿Que pasa? Que pasa is that I tried to open that confounded window!... And kindly put away the blunderbuss, those things have a habit of aging off.

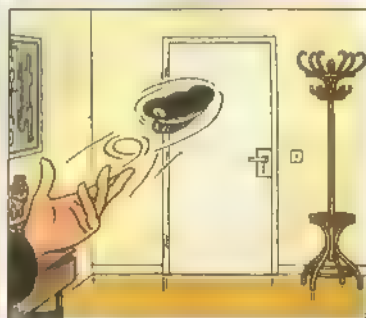
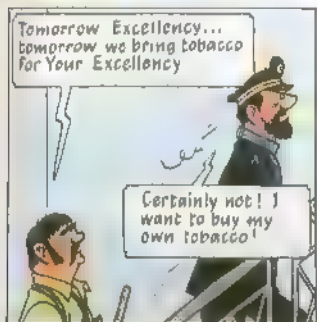
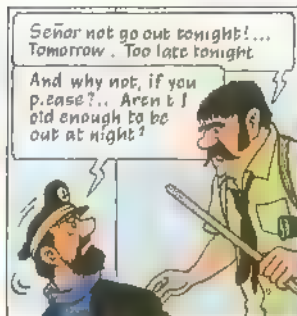
No good to open señor... air conditioning.

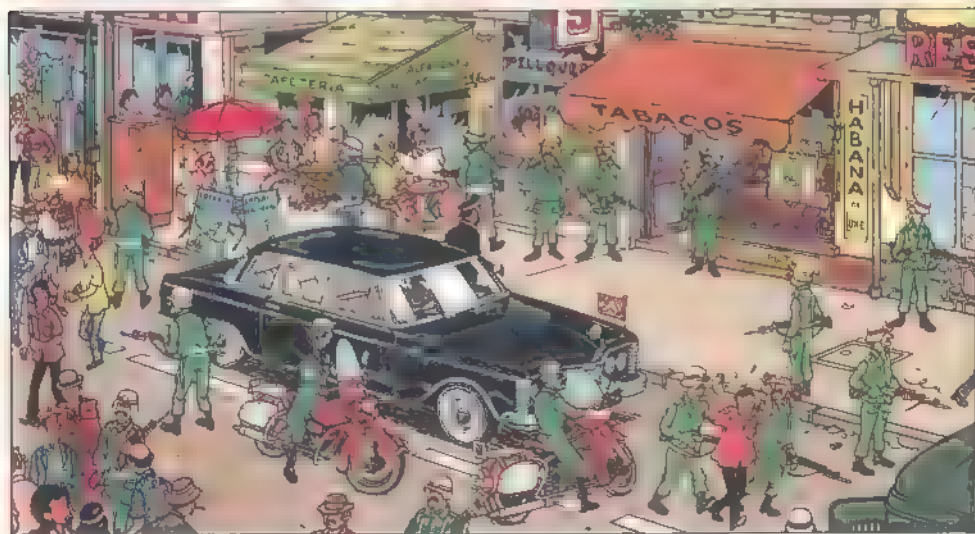
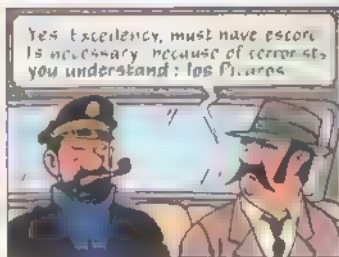
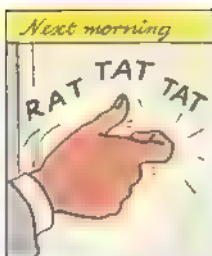
That may well be so but I don't happen to like canned air. Kindly open the window, por favor!

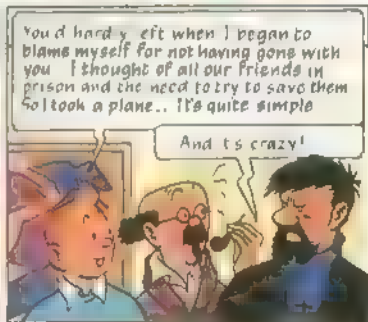
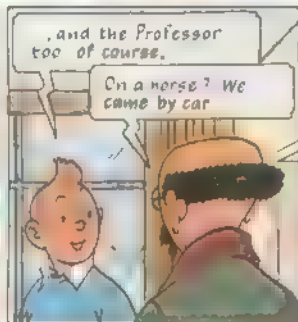
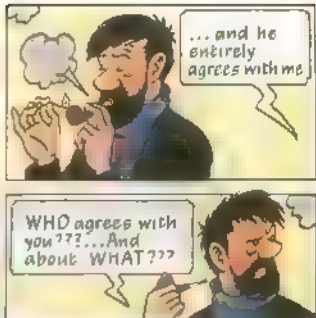
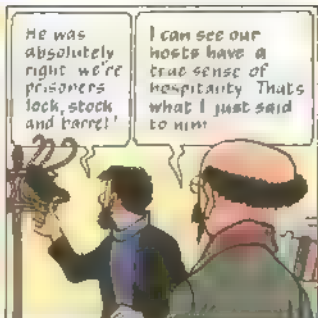
Windows, they do not open señor. Ever as much as noches señor.

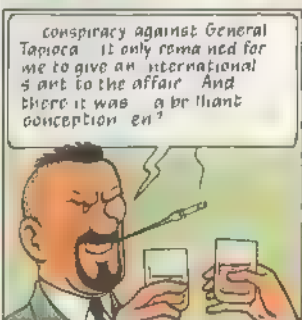
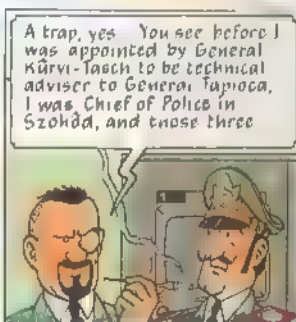
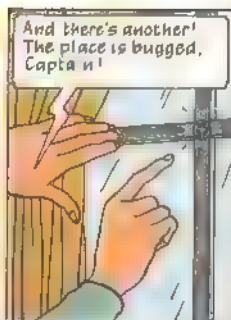
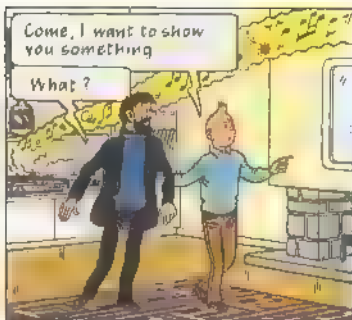
Thanks friend, really, you try too hard!











Three days go by.

But WHEN are we going to see that confounded fellow Tapioca? After all, that's the principal reason we came here!



Instead of which for three days they've shuttled us from the Museum of Ethnography to the birthplace of the Great Liberator General O'lvoro.



Then to the zoo, then to the cathedral of the Santísima Virgen de la Inmaculada Concepción. And what marvel have they in store for us tomorrow?



A confetti-maker for the carnival? Or perhaps a sombrero factory? Heaven knows what!



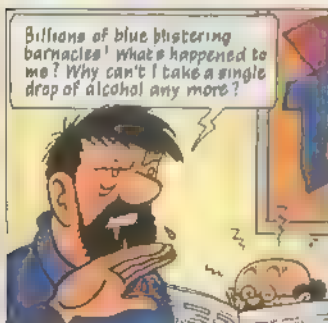
?+?+?



UGHHH!



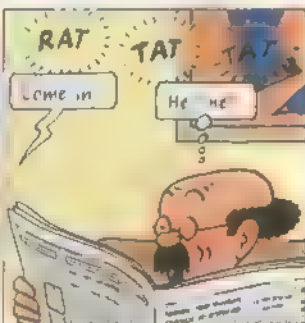
Billions of blue blistering barnacles! What's happened to me? Why can't I take a single drop of alcohol any more?



RAT TAT TAT

COME IN

He he



RAT TAT TAT

YES! COME!



Buenas tardes señores

Hello surely that isn't Manolo's voice?



The evening papers señores

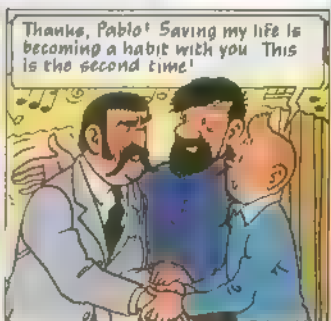
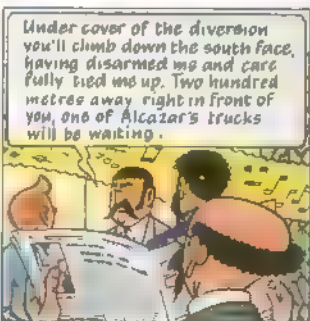
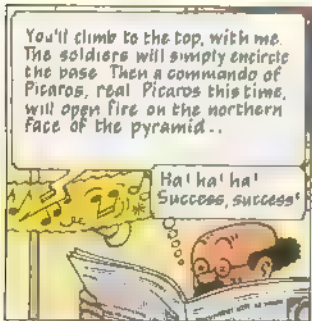
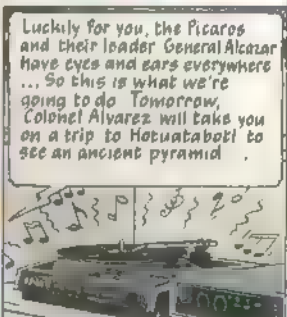
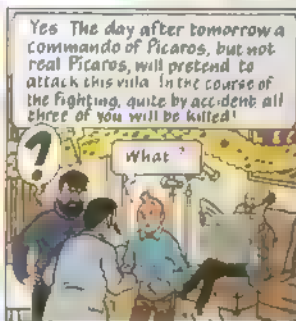
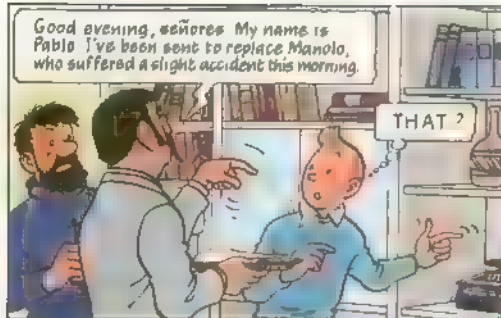
PABLO!?!?



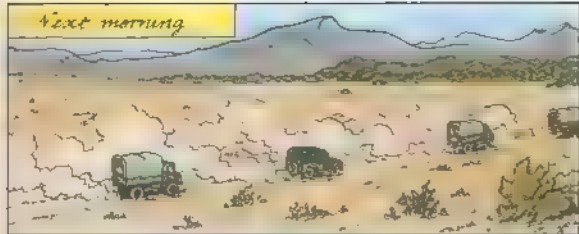
Great snakes! What a surprise! I never

Sssh

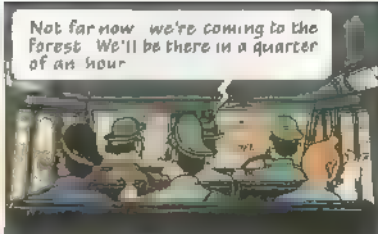




Next morning



Not far now we're coming to the forest. We'll be there in a quarter of an hour.



Your young friend seems very preoccupied

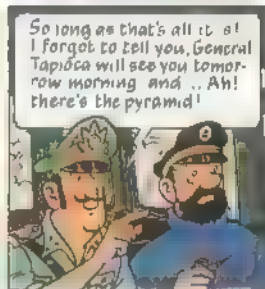
Oh, you've noticed it too?



He's upset to have had no word from General Tapioca



So long as that's all it is! I forgot to tell you, General Tapioca will see you tomorrow morning and... Ah! there's the pyramid!



Superb!...Marvellous! Can we go up?

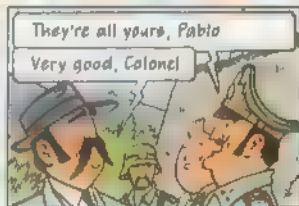
Of course. But you'll excuse me if I don't accompany you...

I expect you've often climbed it before?

Very often. But Pablo will act as your guide.



They're all yours, Pablo. Very good, Colonel.



Be careful. It's a steep slope and many people get giddy up there.

You are most thoughtful, Colonel.



Come along Professor

No thank you, Captain, I'd rather stay here. As you know, I suffer from vertigo.



No no you must come. There'll be a spectacular view from the top!

That's right, you go without me.



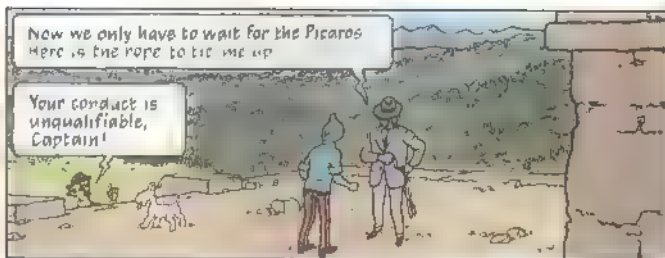
Cuthbert, come along. I beg of you!

Great sunspots! I told you I don't want to!





But I don't want to tie you



Now we only have to wait for the Picaros
Here is the rope to tie me up

Your conduct is
unqualifiable,
Captain!



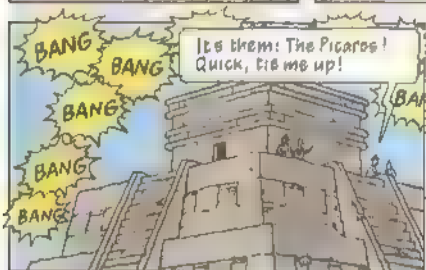
Unqualifiable that's the word!

Whew!
We made it!

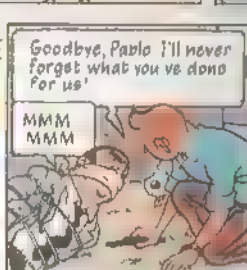


And here's
my gun.

Thanks Pablo!



It's them: The Picaros!
Quick, tie me up!



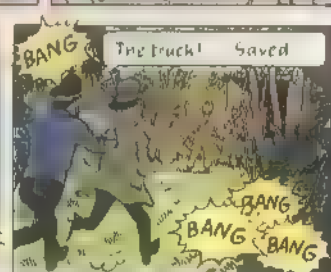
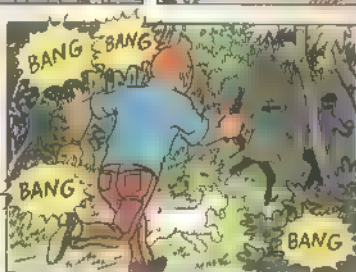
Goodbye, Pablo! I'll never
forget what you've done
for us!

MMM
MMM



BANG BANG BANG
BANG BANG BANG

Ooh Ahh!
My vertigo!



The truck! Saved



In with the driver quick!



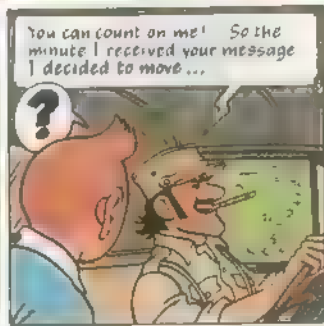
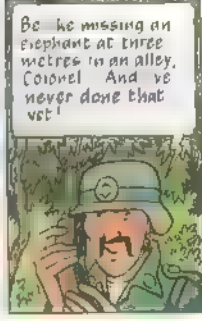
Hop in, amigo mio!

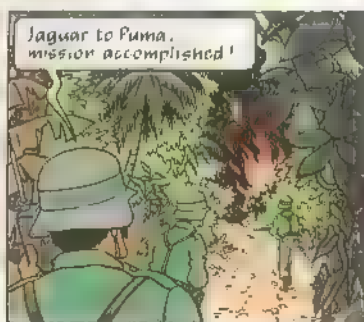
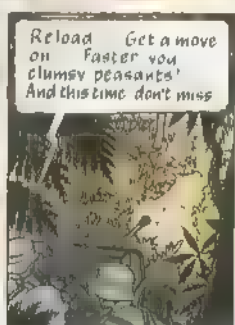
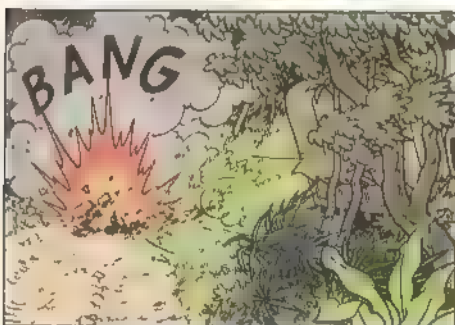
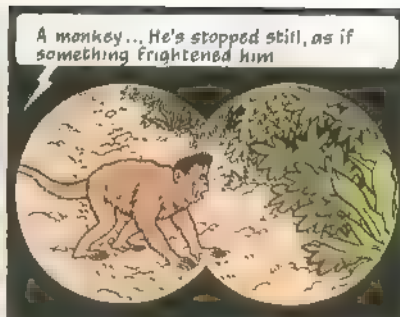
General
Alcazar!

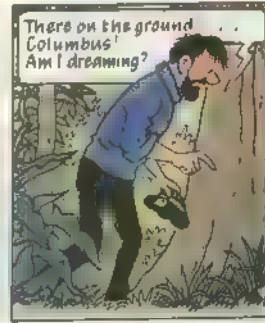
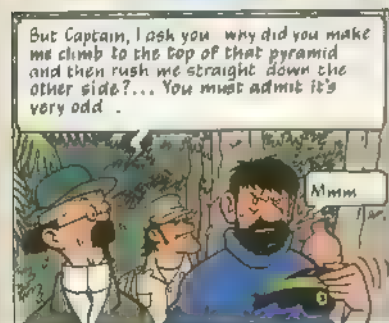
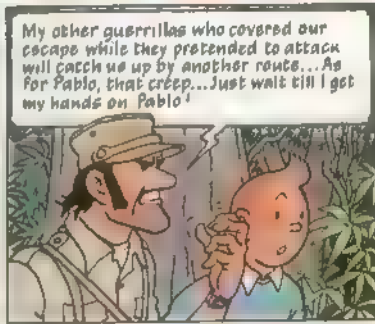
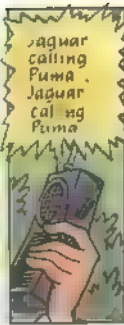


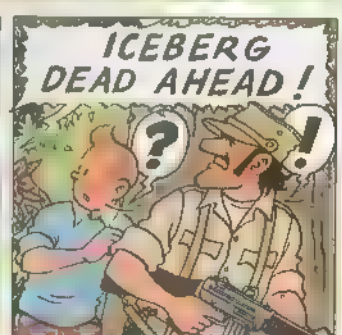
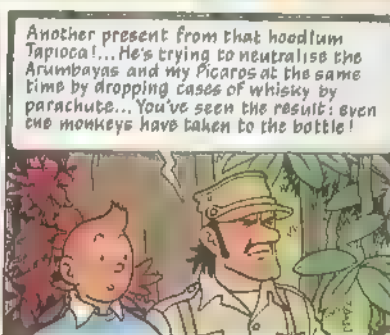
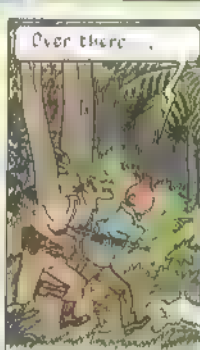
So, the trap is sprung!
Good work, Pablo!

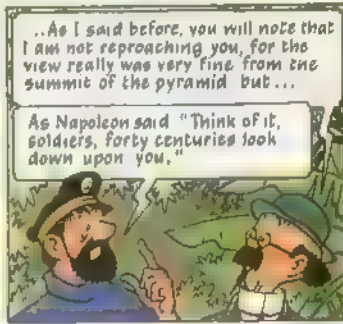
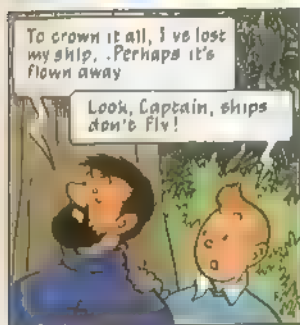
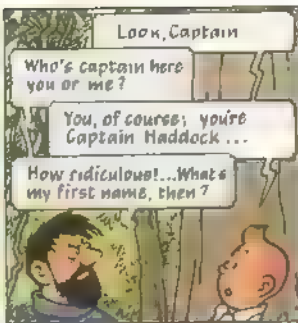
It was quite easy Coonel!

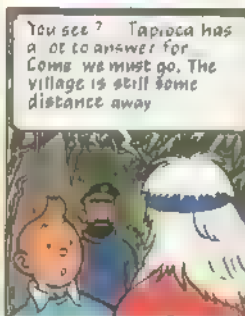
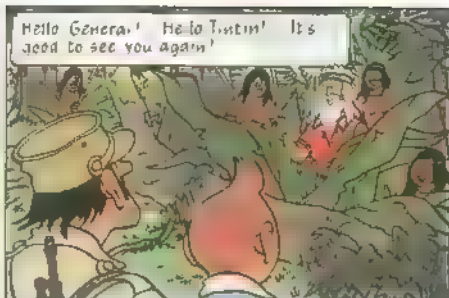


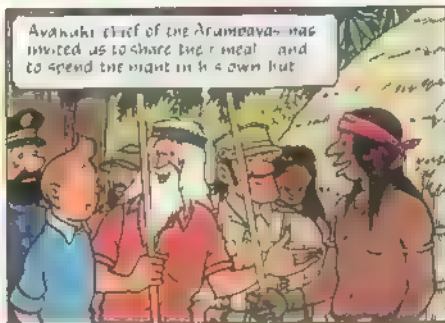












Avaaku chief of the Arumeaya- has invited us to share her meal and to spend the night in her own hut



Please thank him from us and tell him we accept with pleasure. Don't we, Captain?

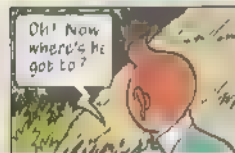
Fu! astern



Don't we Professor?



Ah, I see. There he is just coming along behind.



Oh! Now where's he got to?



That evening



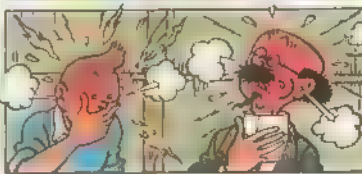
You may not fancy this very much but pretend to like it - it's important not to offend them.

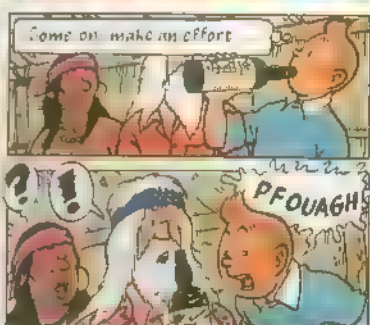
Don't worry.

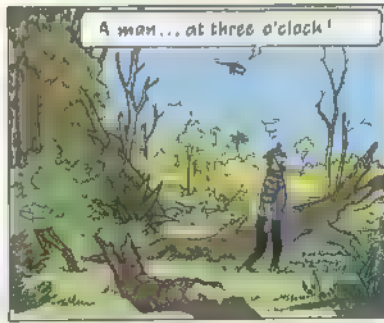
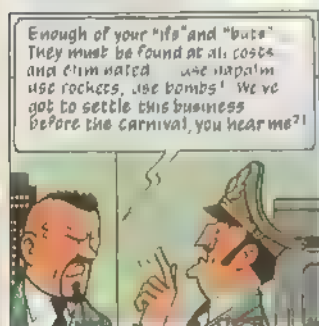


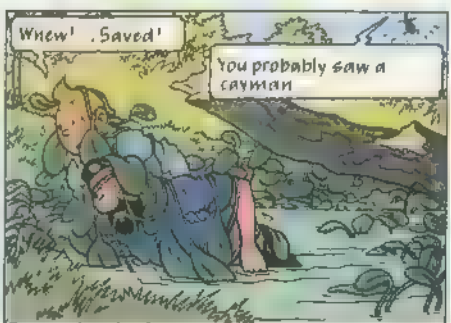
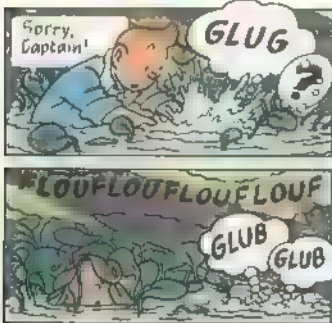
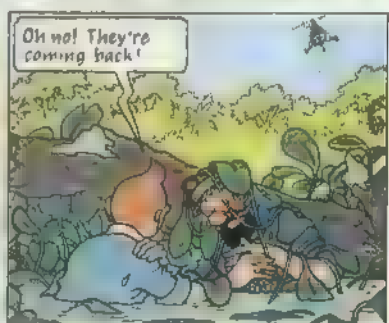
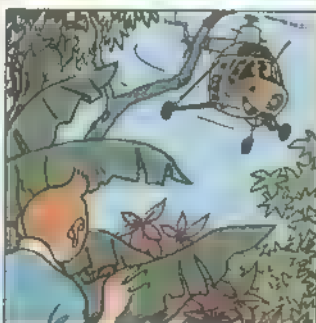
Bon appetit Professor!

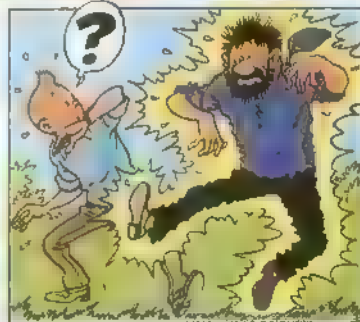
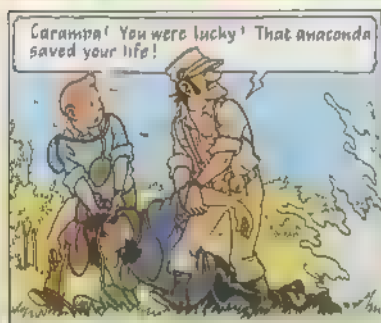
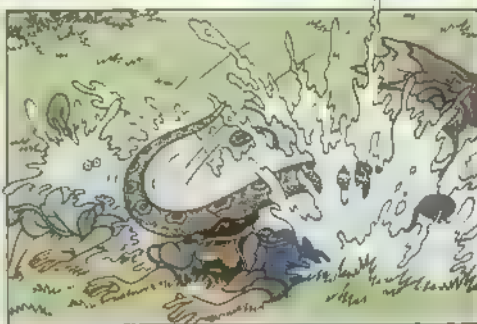
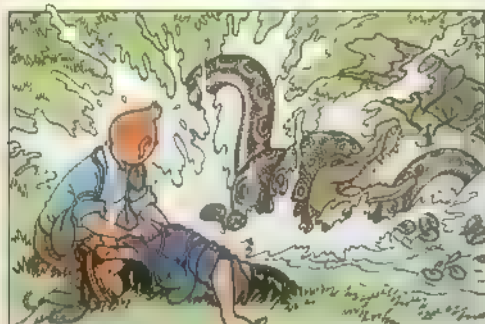
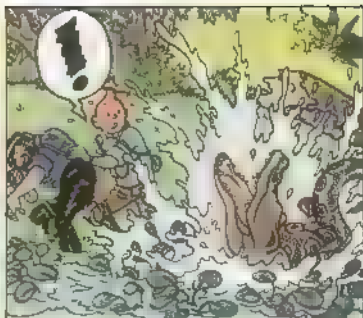
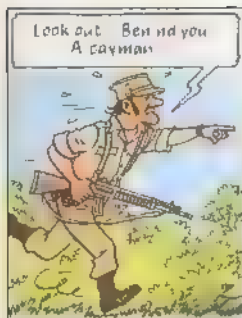
Certainly not. On the contrary I'm passionately fond of all exotic foods!

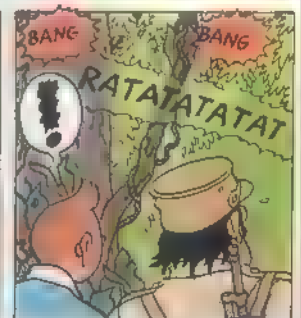
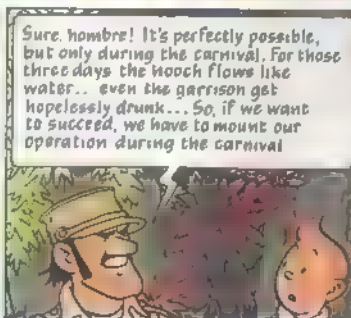
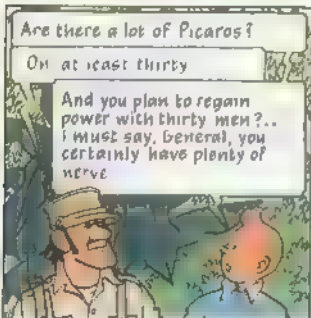
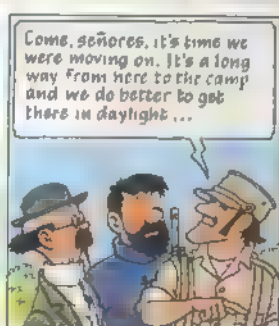
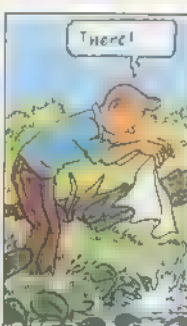
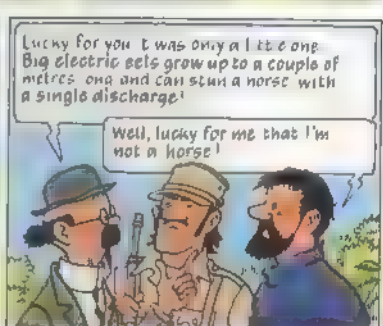
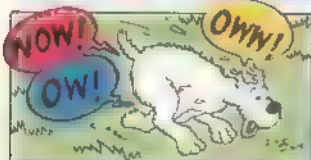


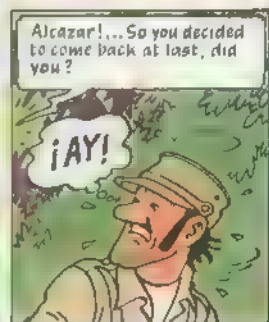
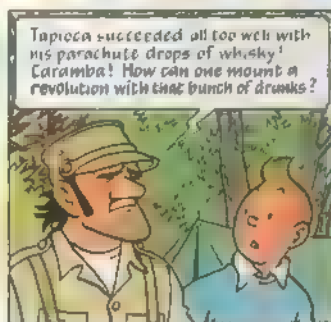
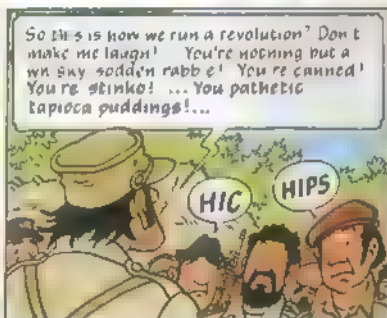
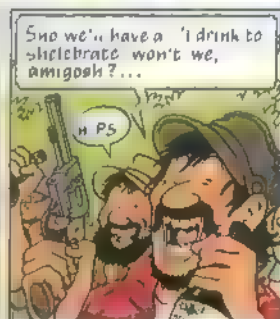












Look who's here! .. And just where d'you think you've been Mr Big?

Good evening, Peggy, my dove!

You promised me to be home the same night! .. And you've been gone three whole days!

I can explain, palomita mia

Yeah, yeah, I know: any excuse is better than none! And what about me? Effort to be in a lousy mud hut? That's real dañay!

The general promised me a palace in Tapiocapolis! And all the general provides is a beat-up palliasso crawling with bugs and roaches!

But

These guys your friends? .. Oh, I warn them: they think they're gonna make the rules around here, they're mighty mistaken!

Thank you, gracious lady, for those kind words! .. Please believe that we are extremely touched by your generous welcome, and allow me to offer you our most humble respects...

SMACK

That a weak woman should share the hardships and, let us admit it, the dangers of guerrilla life, commands not only our utmost respect but our profound admiration!

.. And I speak in a sincerity, dear lady

You coming Alcazar?

Yes my dove

She seems a little drunk on first acquaintance, but she has a heart of gold...

Of course, General. One sees it immediately...

What a delightful lady!... So graceful! Such exquisite femininity!... As for that poor man

His revolution will never succeed with a collection of drunkards like that. Never, unless someone gives him a hand... And it is I who will do it, Cuthbert Calculus!

You?

You!

No, gentlemen, I am not a fool!
I know exactly what I am
saying!

You've missed a

My sister?? What about my
sister? What's my sister done to
you? Will you be good enough to
leave my sister out of this?
And now, listen to me

You see this tube of tablets? Well,
it contains a product that I have
recently perfected. It has a base
of medicinal herbs...

The preparation has no taste, no
smell, and is absolutely non-toxic.
Having said that, a single one of
those tablets administered in
either food or drink imparts a
disgusting taste to any alcohol
taken thereafter.

...And the very first person
upon whom I tested it was you,
Captain!

ME?

You dared to do that? ...Borgia!
... Cannibal! ... Miserable
blundering barbecued blister..

I tell you my sister has
absolutely nothing to
do with it!

And furthermore
you can thank me
for being concerned
for your health!

Please
Captain!

It's a disgrace!
A scandal!
A monstrous
attack upon the
personal freedom
of the individual

Precisely! And again yesterday,
with the Indians, you could see
for yourselves the efficacy of
my invention..

But I never knew
you had

No, young man, I am not mad!
And I would ask you to
show a little more respect to
wards a man of mature years!

No no I insist
er

And for heaven's sake stop
talking about my sister!

My sister! Just
a moment...
My sister???

...And another thing!.. I
don't have a sister.. I never
had a sister.. And don't
you forget it!

So there

Stay with him, Captain... And for the time being stop him from doing anything hasty... I'm off to talk to the General!



Come in!



Ah, it's you, amigo mio! Come on in!

I'm not disturbing you?

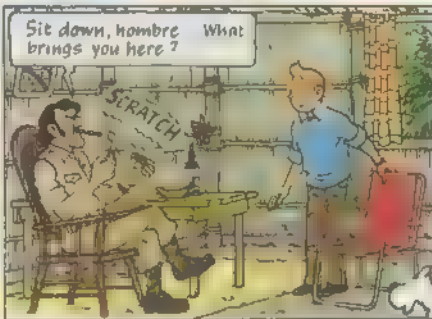


Alcazar the dishes!

I'll carry on presently, palomita mia. I promise!



Sit down, hombre! What brings you here?



Another cigar? ..That makes three since you came back!

Does... does it my dove?



I've been thinking over what you said to me earlier... a revolution is impossible while your Pigueros have only one idea in their heads... whisky!

Alas, that's quite true!



But what would you say if someone succeeded in curing them of their bad habits?

Ah, that's impossible, amigo!



And yet, if you managed to do that, Mr. bombas, I'd give you half the gold reserves in the Banco de la Nación!

Ahem!

... or, let's say a third!

Ahem!

Well... er... ten per cent... What about that?



I don't want anything like that... not a centavo, General!

Then what do you want, amigo? Tell me...



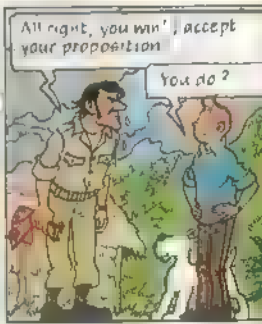
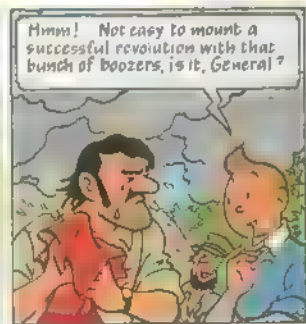
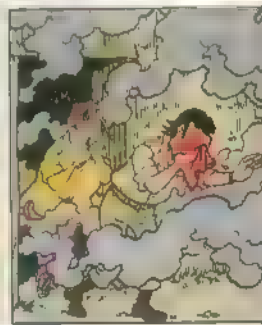
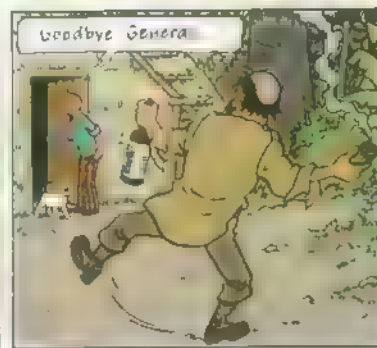
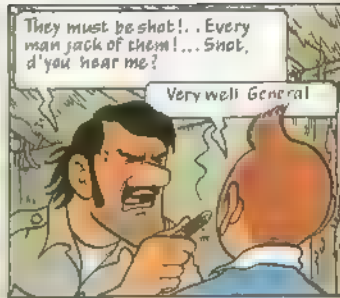
A promise that you'll carry out your revolution without bloodshed... that there won't be any reprisals, or executions, or anything of that sort...

WHAT?



You're crazy! ...Or else you're a traitor... and ought to be shot here and now!







But at least you'll let me shoot Tapiooca and his my sters?
And his staff off cers? You wouldn't refuse me that?

You won't shoot anyone, General!



No one but Tapiooca and his my sters then

I said no one. You can take it or leave it!



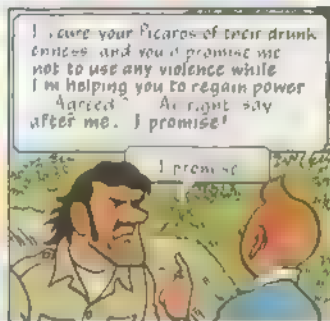
But it's mean. You're taking advantage of the situation!
Do you realise I'll be nothing but a figure of fun if I do as you say?

RRR



At least let me shoot Tapiooca
Just Tapiooca. I implore you

No

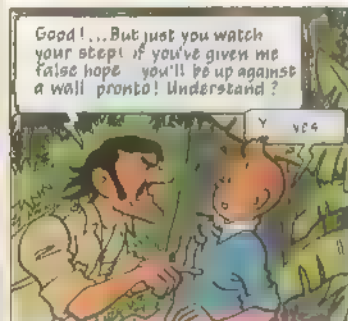


I cure your Picaros of their drunk enness and you promise me not to use any violence while I'm helping you to regain power
Agreed. At right say after me. I promise!

I promise



Good. Have your word. For my part, promise that soon your Picaros won't touch a drop more alcohol



Good!... But just you watch your steps! If you've given me false hope, you'll be up against a wall pronto! Understand?

Y



Am I?

?



Has he lost something?

Yes he must have lost something

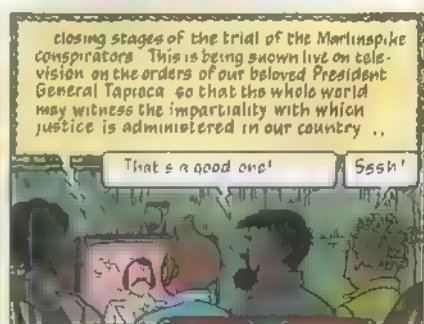
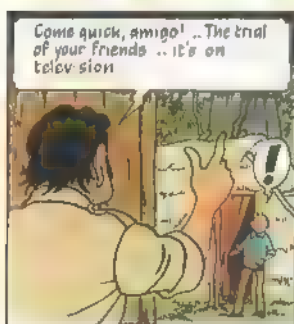
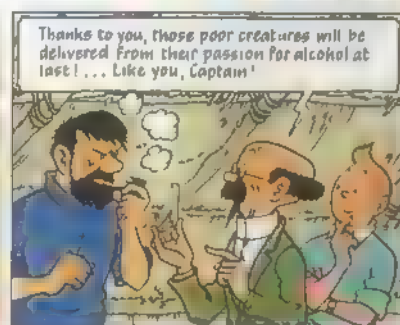
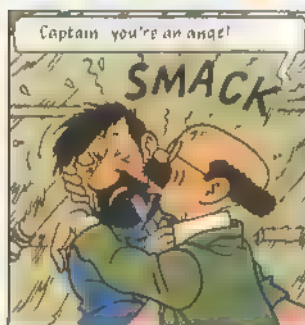
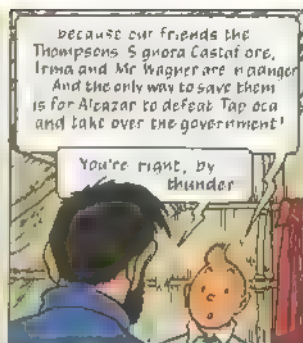
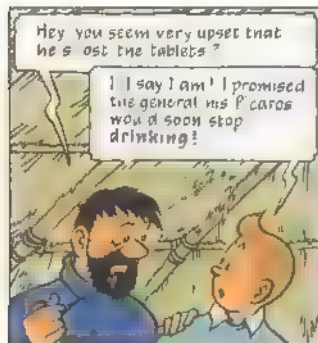


You seem to have lost something

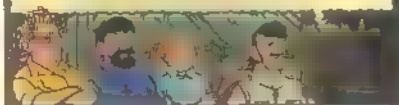
No no I've lost something



The bottle of tablets I was telling you about just now I can't find it anywhere isn't that curious?



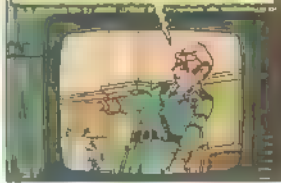
Recently, our beloved President generously invited Captain Haddock, Professor Calculus and the reporter Tintin to our country to put their case. He guaranteed their freedom. And how did they repay him? With cold cynicism! They took the first opportunity to flee into the jungle and join their accomplice Alcazar and his villainous Picaros!



This action alone is enough to prove that the grave accusations against the three defendants are entirely justified. But over now to the Palace of Justice where the Public Prosecutor is putting the case for the Republic...



You have before you, gentle men, two sinister characters who, more easily to accomplish their evil purpose Do I need to remind you of it?



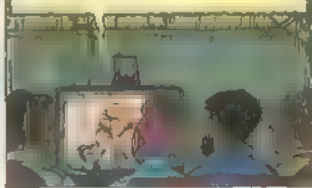
...be assassinate our beloved President, did not hesitate to pass themselves off as honest police men! But their monstrous subtlety Fuge deceived no one! Look at their low brows, their furtive glances!



..In short, look at their brutish faces! Policemen? Them? Cheats! Imposters! Assassins!



Men who, to appear as loyal supporters of General Tapioca and the noble ideology of Kuviri-Tasch, carried their duplicity so far as to grow moustaches!



That's a lie! ... We've been wearing moustaches since we were born!

To be precise, we're worn bearing them!



Silence! ..You will speak when you are spoken to!



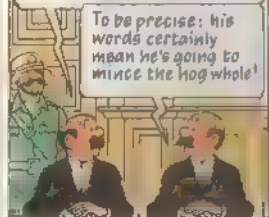
..Gentlemen, for these two wretches, who can have no claim to extenuating circumstances, I demand the DEATH PENALTY!

You see? None of your fancy scruples there, eh?



The death penalty!! ... He certainly doesn't mince his words. He means to go the whole hog!

To be precise: his words certainly mean he's going to mince the whole hog!

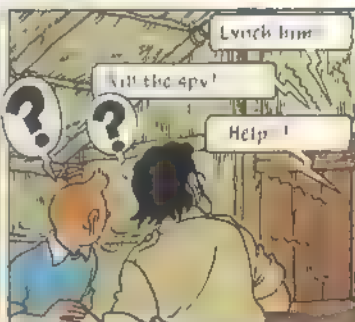
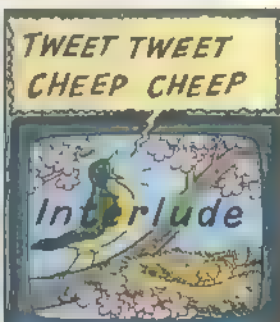
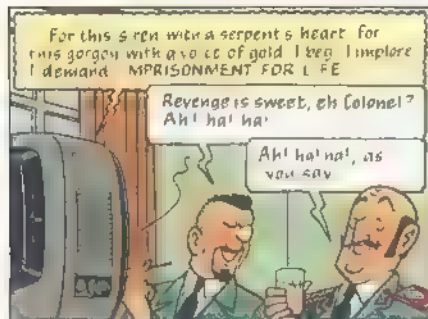


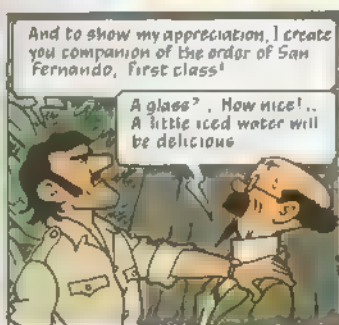
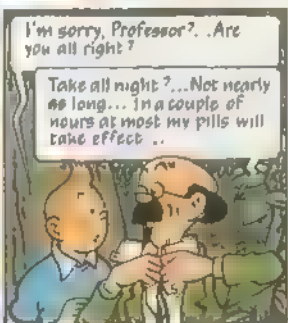
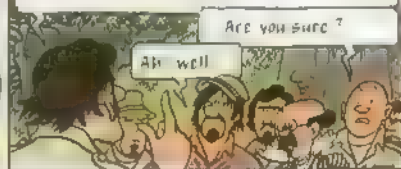
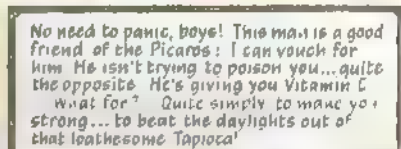
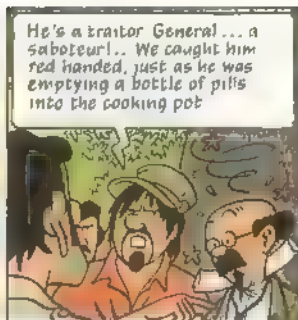
But the real brains behind the plot and we have here documents which prove it irrefutably are those of a woman!!!



A woman or should we call her a monster? who lent her talents, her undoubted talents to a criminal cause her name is Bianca Castafiore, "the Milanese Nightingale"!







Look at them, Captain... They're obviously suspicious. And if they don't eat that food they'll go on drinking. So the revolution will fail... and our friends the Thompsons will be shot!



There's the dog. He belongs to the pringos. I'm going to give him some of that vitaminized stew. If he eats it, we will too. Otherwise...

He's right!

I agree!



Doggywoggy? Come come come come.

He o what does he want me for?



Come come come! ...Yumyyyum! Looky dere! ... Looky dere, good for little doggywogsies!...

He must be daft, talking like that.

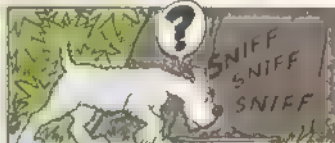


Let's hope... let's hope he'll eat the food.



?

SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF



Y EEEK!



You saw that boys? Are we going to eat what even a dog won't touch?

You're right!

We won't eat that much!



Go back at once, Snowy and eat it!

But...



That's oop! It's full of pimentos!



SCHLOOP
GLURP
GLURP
SCHLOP



Hey boys! Look! He's changed his mind!... Now we can have some too!

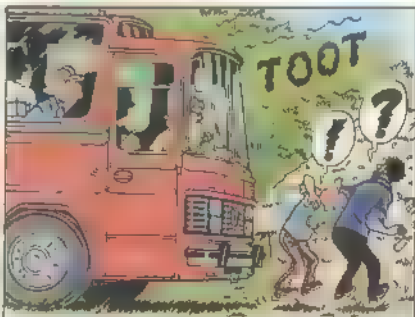
¡Bueno! I'm hungry!

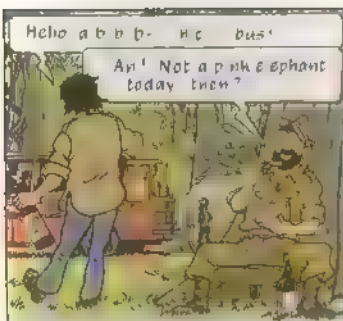


They're eating it! Now we can save our friends!



TOOT





Hello a b b b- we bus!

Am! Not a pink elephant today then?



Is it far to Tapiocapolis?

Tapiocapolis?... Great snakes you're hopelessly off the road



Drat!... Could any of these soldiers escort us? I've heard there's a risk of attack from guerrillas around here. They call them Picaros



That's exactly where you are: among the Picaros!

No kidding?



Are these real guerrillas?

It's terrifically Tarzan. Don't you think?



I say old man, where can we buy postcards?

Posse! He's a card!



They must have a souvenir shop somewhere about the place



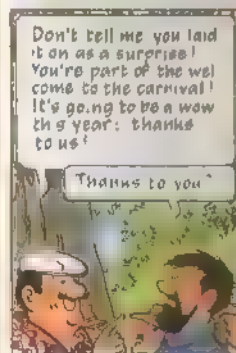
Slow me, who's here?

So you want?



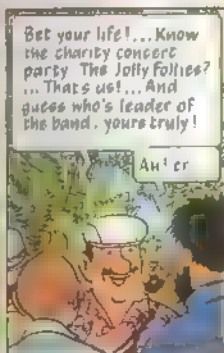
Doctor, my stomach, I pre-sume! How are you, me old girl? Or not day?

No



Don't tell me you laid it on as a surprise! You're part of the wel come to the carnival! It's going to be a wow this year: thanks to us!

Thanks to you



Bet your life!... Know the charity concert party The Jolly Follies? ... That's us!... And guess who's leader of the band, yours truly!

Am! or



Sunny Jim designed their costume so Symaking on?

Very original

What's all this tomfoolery?

Hi there, me old F'eld Marshal!
... So you're the top brass for
these boozy brigands!

What d'you think you're doing here, you and your husband of 20 years? And come to think of it for all I know you're spies on Tapioca's payroll.

A word with you,
General. If I
may



CLAC TR2TRRRR
RR TING '2CLANG'
M 2 CLICK
22 146 !!!

Please forgive me amigo mio. I didn't realize you were. But caranba! Friends of my friends are friends of mine! So make your self at home hombre!

And this evening am go, you and all your fowles will be my guests!
51 51 We'll have a grand fiesta,
with whisky by the gallon!
Just you wait!

What did you say to him?

You'll see in due course!

That night

What's the matter with this
whisky? It's simply disgusting!

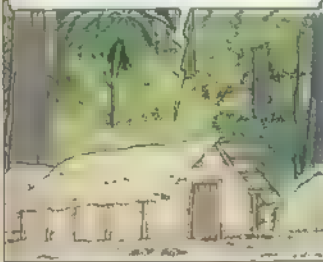
ZZZAGH

You must be such a
super!

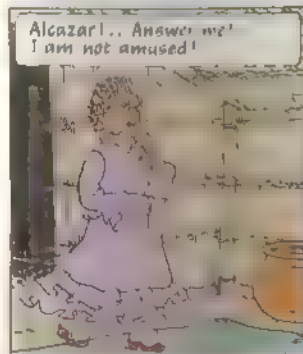
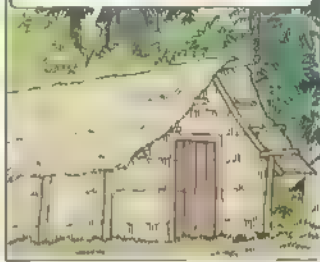
WE'RE THE JOLLY JOLLY FOLLIES
HEY NONNY NO HEY NONNY NO



Alcazar! Alcazar! Time for
you to fix breakfast!



Alcazar? Where are you?
Answer me this minute!



My dear
I've got to start the rev-
lution against the vial
Tajoca. When it over you
will have the pills which
I've promised you
Mucin sir from your
Zazar
I've borrowed the Golyfollis
buss and have left Luer-
bert to look after you.
Z



Caramba! These Jolly Folies were sent from heaven!... Thanks to them and to your friend Calculus I'll soon be back in power..

It's a shabby way to treat those poor people, sneaking off with their bus and their costumes. But it's the only way to save our friends..

Never mind, I'll be able to reward them with appropriate generosity as soon as I've chucked out that vile Tapioca. I'll admit them all to the Order of San Fernando.

Tomorrow afternoon we'll arrive in Tapiocapolis and that'll soon be re-named Alcazaropolis. It's the opening day of the carnival. Before we reach the city we'll rehearse our plans to the very last detail.

We'll be dressed in the Jolly Folies costumes, with our guns at the ready.

With orders not to see them.

The next afternoon!

This is it, my brave Picaros! We're here! ... Now each of you guys remember what you have to do.



Meanwhile

Are you sure it isn't dangerous, General, letting all these people assemble in front of the windows? You'll be a sitting target for the first Picaro.

No danger, Colonel.

Even if by some extraordinary chance armed Picaros managed to infiltrate the crowd, they'd be far too drunk to shoot straight! As you know, my parachute drops of whisky have been a total success.

My spies have been quite definite. Alcazar's men are never sober. And they'd be quite incapable of engaging in any serious action, poor fools.



Everybody out

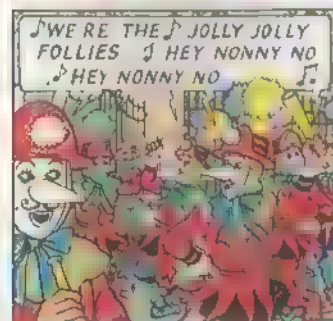


Watch it Captain, remember you're a Folly!

Don't worry!



♪ WE'RE THE JOLLY JOLLY FOLLIES ♪ HEY NONNY NO ♪ HEY NONNY NO ♪



Where are those people from?

The programme says: "The Jolly Follies, a charity concert party from Europe."



Excellent! Just listen to the beat! They've even got our guards joining in the dance!



Ready! On the next hey nonny no, out comes the choir to perform!

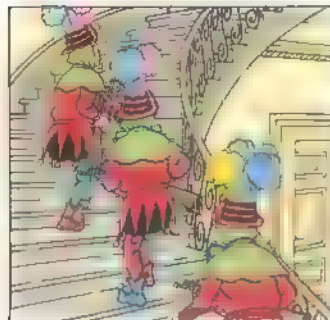


HEY NONNY NO! ?



Put him with the rest in the porch. Your arms are there.





Ha! ha! ha! They're hilarious! Have some of them brought up here. I'd like to meet these jolly fellows!

As the General wishes!



You sent for us, General? Here we are! Happy Carnival!

?!?



What sort of joke is this?

It isn't a joke, my dear Tapioca. Look who's here!



ALCAZAR!!!

GENERAL Alcazar to you, EX-General Tapioca!



Look Captain! Do you recognise that off for there, next to Colonel Alvarez?

Thundering ty-
phoons! Sponez!



Now my dear Tapioca, you will kindly read out this little speech prepared by us. We shall of course be recording it on tape...

I will never read it!



Tut tut amigo!

Never say never

Very well! I surrender to violence, but I protest!



Get on with it And make it sound convincing!



Friends, comrades, countrymen!... This carnival day marks a turning-point in the history of our native land...



...For today I have decided to hand over all my powers to General Alcazar who from now on will lead our beloved country forward along the road of economic, social and cultural progress. Long live San Theodoros! Long live General Alcazar!



Thanks, amigo! You'll be a sensation on the radio!



There it is... in the bag! Pedro, you and your section hop a long to the Rad'o Building and see this statement is broadcast immediately. Understand?

5.

My heartfelt congratulat ons, General! Death to Tapioca!... Would you like him shot at once?

Long live General Alcazar!

Shoot Tapioca!

Long live General Alcazar!

Executions are out!
H a l f e w l e b e a p e r e d

But General, it's contrary to every custom that the people will be treated by disarmed.

The colonel is right General. For pity's sake don't pardon me! Do you want me completely dishonoured?

Permit me to insist, General!

My decision is irrevocable, your life will be spared. An aircraft will be placed at your disposal, to convey you wherever you may wish to go.

Are you mad?

No I'm not... But he is!... This machacho made me give my word that the coup would be bloodless!... I'm desperately sorry...

Come on, let's greet old Sponz...

Ah an idealist, is he?... Young chaps nowadays have absolutely no respect for anything. Not even the oldest traditions!

We live in sad times.

We meet again, Colonel Sponz!

Don't worry Sponz, even you have something to fear. They're coming for you in Borduria, so your ticket to Szahed is booked for the morning.

We caught this one trying to escape.

It's Tintin!... I'm finished!

Par o

Mercy Señor Tintin, mercy! Please don't shoot me!

That's less than you deserve, you subtropical sea-louse!

Don't be afraid Pablo, no one is going to hurt you. You once saved my life, and I haven't forgotten that. You are free to go... Adios, Pablo!



You made a mistake there, Tintín, and you'll live to regret it. You're making a rod for your own back. To be precise...



Great snakes! The Thompsons!

The Thompsons, General! The Thompsons... They could be shot while we stand here talking!



Ah, yes... you think so?

Yes, General. The execution is due to take place in twenty-two minutes precisely!



!Mi! bombas! Quick, call the prison and cancel the execution!

At once General!



RRING
...
RRING

Fifty seconds... Pip Pip Pip... At the third stroke it will be five thirty-eight precisely... Pip Pip Pip... At the third



You did it on purpose! Dia, the right number this time or I'll have you shot!



RRRRRING
...
RRRRRING



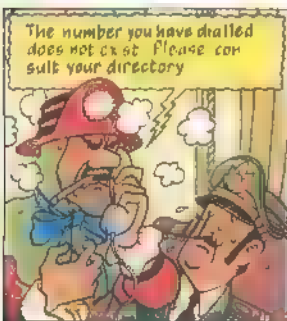
...precisely... Pip Pip Pip... At the third stroke it will be five forty and ten seconds.



If it doesn't work this time, I'll personally shoot the Minister of Telecommunications!

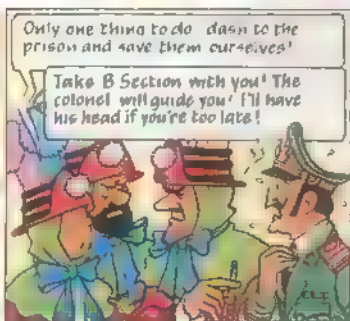


The number you have dialled does not exist. Please consult your directory.



Only one thing to do: dash to the prison and save them ourselves!

Take B Section with you! The colonel will guide you! I'll have his head if you're too late!



Rápido! Rápido... por Dios!



Meanwhile...

I'm terribly sorry, gentlemen, but we must go, please... It's time...

And one must be on time.

To be precise: time, gentlemen please!

Don't worry: it's a nasty moment, but you'll soon forget it...

This is San Theodores National Radio. We are interrupting our programmes for a special announcement by His Excellency General Tapioca...

A car!... We must commandeer a car!

Useless! No vehicle could get through this crowd...

What can we do?

Look! That Float...

What? You mean...

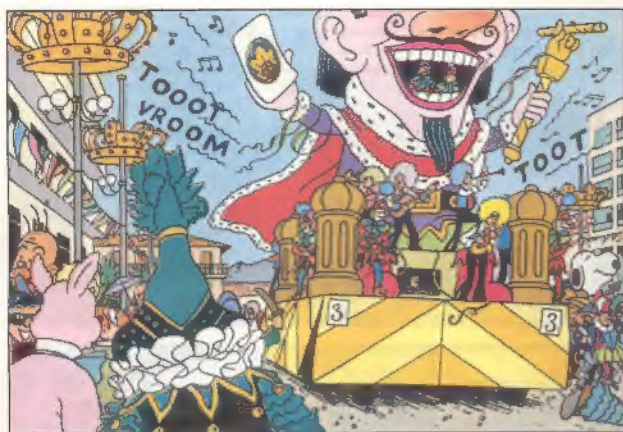
Yes! It's the only possible answer!

You!... Keep on playing!

Keep playing!... Don't stop!

Driver!... To the State Prison! And put your foot down!

Put my foot down?... With this crate?... You must be joking!



Meanwhile...

Blindfolds? Certainly not!
... A Thompson looks death
straight in the face!

To be precise: A Thomson
with a straight face looks
like death!



It's your lucky day. The music adds a little
gaiety to the party, doesn't it?



Squ-a-a-a-d!... Ready!



Can you perhaps think of
some famous last words?

Er... What about, "Kiss
me, Thompson"
Will that do?



Squad! Take aim!...



Hold your fire!... Hands up, the
lot of you!... Drop your guns!



Next morning ...

The army, the navy and the air force have come over to me! Mil bombas! It's an overwhelming triumph!



And it's partly due, of course, to you... Si, si, si!... Alcazar is not ungenerous: you will be decorated with the order of San Fernando!... As for your five per cent...

Please forget that, General!



General, the bus you sent to the camp to fetch Señora Alcazar and the Jolly Follies has returned.

Good! Show them in here...



So there you are, Alcazar! What's the game, eh? You've been absent without leave again!

I can explain, palomita mia...



Señor Wagg, allow me to express the deep gratitude of the San Theodorian people for the help you have given to our cause. I therefore appoint you and your Jolly Follies to the order of San Fernando, and invite you to next year's carnival.



And Señor Professor... In recognition of the magnificent role you played, I appoint you Knight Grand Cross of the Order of San Fernando, with Oak Leaves.

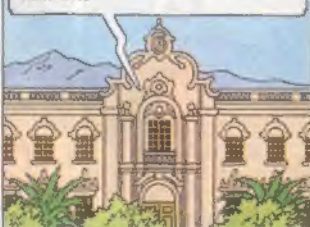
No thank you, my friend. Never between meals.



Good old Alcazar! Give him a big hurrah!



As for you, my dove... I promised you a palace. Bueno, I keep my word. This is all yours, from now on.



Fine and dandy!... Anyone can see it isn't you who's expected to keep this dump clean... So for a start, stop dropping cigar ash all over the place!... You get me?



Two days later...

Blistering barnacles, I shan't be sorry to be back home in Marlinspike...

Me too, Captain...



Me too, but with a little mustard if you please.



THE
END